

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY **East Germany**

REPORT

SUBJECT **Livestock Diseases in East Germany**

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. Tuberculosis

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a) The stock of cattle in East Germany, which in 1955 amounted to about 2,500,000 animals, is approximately 80% infected with tuberculosis according to investigations conducted by the Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry. Only about 6% of the total cattle holdings are completely unaffected by the disease, and few of the nationalized farms are untouched.

b) All sales of cattle are conditional on a thorough tuberculosis examination but this obligatory measure is carried out only with difficulty since many veterinarians do not have the necessary instruments.

c) Professor Dr. Hussel (fau) has been delegated to set up a ten-year program for ridding East Germany of cattle tuberculosis. This program anticipates ridding first a specific community, then the Kreis in which that community is located, and finally the Bezirk from the disease. The plan calls for about 140,000,000 DEM in state subsidies during the course of the ten years. Negotiations over the cost are currently in progress and, when concluded, the plan will be published in the form of an ordinance.

d) Causes for the spread of the disease are: (1) young cattle raised without sufficient milk; (2) shortages of fodder and poor quality fodder; (3) bad stable facilities.

e) Various clinics are attempting through scientific research to find means to rid the dairy herds of tuberculosis. Primarily involved in this work are Professor Hofmann (fau) of the University of Jena, Professor Rosseger (fau), Dresden, and Professor Comberg (fau) from Oberhels near Leipzig.

f) In the future, the agricultural production cooperatives (LPGs) will be supplied only with tuberculosis-free animals and only such as have passed the main tuberculosis test (Tee-Hauptprobe).

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

2. Hog Cholera (Schweinepest)

a) The hog cholera first appeared in epidemic form in 1952 with the institution of the state feeding pens (staatliche Grossmastereien), particularly on the nationalized farms. (The 1952-1953 plan quota for fattening was set at 350,000 suckling pigs.) Dr. Reinhardt (fau) of the Department for Veterinary Matters in the Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry determined after investigation that the source of plague lay in the hog stocks of the Soviet occupation forces. The hogs owned by the Soviet economic enterprises had apparently been fed indiscriminately with refuse. The plague was then spread through poor and makeshift sties and by too high plan demands for hog holdings.

b) By the middle of 1953, up to 60% of the stock in Land Mecklenburg was suspect and in quarantine. Up to 30%, particularly from the nationalized farms, had to be slaughtered. Other heavily infected areas were Gera, where the plague was latent, Erfurt, also with latent existence of the disease, and Halle and Magdeburg, where the infection was acute.

c) The epidemic reached its high point in the middle of 1954. The Bezirke in Thuringia and the Dresden area were hardest hit then. In East Germany as a whole, about 40% of the stock (about 8,500,000 hogs) were in quarantine. The total loss amounted to about 20% of the stock.

d) Wherever the disease is suspected, the area and Kreis are quarantined, and the hogs inoculated. Pigs, three to four months old and up to 35 pounds in weight, are given two inoculations while still in the sties of the sow owner. They are again inoculated with hyperimmune (Hochimmun) serum when they are transported to the feeding pens. In 1954, about 600,000 suckling pigs were inoculated in this manner with the result that, from January 1955 to July 1955, the incidence of disease had been considerably reduced.

e) As of 30 June 1955, 150 of a total of 10,000 communities were under quarantine. In these 150, the disease was positively identified on 360 farms, and the cases found were individual instances of breaches of the immunization program. On the large hog farms, the disease is practically eliminated. Only a shortage of serum prevented the inoculation of all hogs in 1954.

f) The serum is produced chiefly in Dessau and Rottenau and in 1955 will cover the requirements of East Germany with about 1,300,000 inoculations of two vaccinations each.

3. Hog Paralysis (Schweinelähmung)

This disease appeared in individual instances on three or four farms in Thuringia in Kreis Heiligenstadt. No other cases have been determined. Totalkühlung was ordered as a remedy.

4. Hoof and Mouth Disease

Although during 1953 and 1954, hoof and mouth disease caused considerable losses, particularly in milk production, by 1955 the spread of the disease had been considerably reduced. Inoculation against the sickness is obligatory throughout East Germany, except for those Kreise which supply the Rügen Island with non-inoculated cattle. The stock on the nationalized farms and on the agricultural production cooperatives is under constant supervision by the contract veterinarians working there for the maintenance of the immunization.

5. Bang's Disease (Abortus bang)

a) After the end of the war, Bang's Disease was particularly widespread in the northern Bezirke of East Germany. The mass transfer of cattle from Thuringia and Saxony to Mecklenburg and Brandenburg in the years 1946 to 1949 contributed to its spread. According to available estimates, up to 20% of the cattle stock is infected with the disease and the incidence is heaviest on the nationalized farms.

b) A governmental ordinance requires that all cattle over one year old must be serologically tested for the presence of the Bang's bacillus. Cows suffering from the disease are given a cure treatment, stricken bulls are generally slaughtered. As a preventive measure, young cattle are separated from the cows more than heretofore.

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6. Lung Worm Disease (Lungenwurmsuche)

This disease has caused losses in the young cattle stocks chiefly in the northern Bezirke. The Rostock Bezirke was hardest hit. However, in the overall cattle picture, the disease is of little decisive importance. It apparently stems from the shortage of stabling facilities for young cattle.

7. Chicken Plague (Hocherpest)

The chicken plague is being continually reintroduced and spread through the imports of fowl from Poland and Hungary. As a result, the veterinarians are attempting to prevent these imports.

8. Mange in Horses and Sheep (Räude)

Incidence of this disease is rare and is considered unimportant.

9. Red Murrain in Pigs (Rotlauf)

Red murrain is rarely found in East Germany. When it appears locally, inoculation of the herd is ordered.

1. Comment: Totalkeulung presumably means slaughtering.

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Comments:

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2. Probably Prof. Fritz Hofmann.

3. Probably Prof. Gustav Comberg.

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